

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, opposite longitudinal end regions and a central region extending longitudinally between and interconnecting the end regions, said absorbent article comprising:

5       an outer cover;

      a bodyside liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the wearer's skin; and

      an absorbent structure disposed between the bodyside liner and the outer cover, the absorbent structure being  
10       secured to at least one of the liner and the outer cover within a securement zone, the securement zone comprising a central portion disposed generally within the central region of the article and having an average width as determined by a Securement Zone Measurement Method, and at least one outer  
15       portion disposed longitudinally outward of the central portion of the securement zone and having an average width as determined by the Securement Zone Measurement Method, said average width of the central portion of the securement zone being substantially greater than said average width of the at  
20       least one outer portion of said securement zone.

2. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has a length, the central portion of the securement zone having longitudinally opposite end boundaries defining an average length of said central portion  
5       as determined by said Securement Zone Measurement Method, said average length being in the range of about 5 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

3. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 2 wherein the average length of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 10 percent to about 30 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

4. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 3 wherein the average length of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 10 percent to about 20 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

5. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has a length, the central portion of the securement zone having longitudinally opposite end boundaries, one of said end boundaries being spaced from a  
5 respective end of the absorbent article a distance in the range of about 20 percent to about 45 percent of the length of the absorbent article, the opposite end boundary of the central portion of the securement zone being longitudinally spaced from the respective opposite end of the absorbent  
10 article a distance in the range of about 20 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

6. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure is secured to said at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner with adhesive.

7. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 6 wherein the adhesive is a meltblown adhesive.

8. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the securement zone comprises a pair of outer portions extending longitudinally outward of the central portion of said securement zone, one of said outer portions extending  
5 longitudinally toward one end of the absorbent article, the other outer portion extending longitudinally toward the opposite end of the absorbent article.

9. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has laterally opposite side edges, the securement zone having laterally opposite side

boundaries, the side boundaries of the securement zone at the  
5 central portion thereof being disposed laterally within at  
least about one inch (2.54 centimeters) of the respective  
side edges of the absorbent structure at the central portion  
of the securement zone, the side boundaries of the securement  
zone at said at least one outer portion thereof being spaced  
10 laterally inward of the respective side edges of the  
absorbent structure at the said least one outer portion of  
the securement zone a distance greater than about one inch  
(2.54 centimeters).

10. An absorbent structure as set forth in claim 1  
wherein said average width of the central portion of the  
securement zone is at least about 20 percent of the width of  
the absorbent structure at said central portion of the  
5 securement zone, said average width of said at least one  
outer portion of the securement zone being less than about 20  
percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said at  
least one outer portion.

11. An absorbent structure as set forth in claim 10  
wherein said average width of the central portion of the  
securement zone is in the range of about 20 percent to about  
80 percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said  
5 central portion of the securement zone.

12. An absorbent structure as set forth in claim 10  
wherein said average width of the central portion of the  
securement zone is in the range of about 20 percent to about  
60 percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said  
5 central portion of the securement zone.

13. An absorbent structure as set forth in claim 1  
wherein the absorbent structure is secured to both the outer  
cover and the bodyside liner within the securement zone.

14. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner is stretchable.

15. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 14 wherein said at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner is elastic.

16. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 14 wherein the absorbent structure is substantially non-stretchable.

17. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the securement zone extends continuously generally from within one end region of said article through the central region to within the opposite end region of said  
5 article.

18. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has longitudinally opposite ends, the central portion of the securement zone being disposed nearer to one end of the article than to said  
5 opposite end of said article.

19. An absorbent article for personal wear, the absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, a first end region, a second end region and a center region extending longitudinally between and interconnecting the  
5 first and second end regions, said absorbent article comprising:

an outer cover;

a bodyside liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the wearer's skin; and

10 an absorbent structure disposed between the bodyside liner and the outer cover and having longitudinally opposite

ends and laterally opposite side edges, the absorbent structure extending generally from within the first end region of the article through the center region to within the  
15 second end region of said article and being secured to at least one of the liner and the outer cover within a securement zone having laterally opposite side boundaries, the securement zone comprising at least in part a central portion wherein the side boundaries of the securement zone  
20 are disposed laterally within at least about one inch (2.54 centimeters) of the respective side edges of the absorbent structure, the side boundaries of any portion of the securement zone disposed longitudinally outward of said central portion being spaced laterally inward of the  
25 respective side edges of the absorbent structure a distance greater than about one inch (2.54 centimeters).

20. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein the absorbent article has a length, the central portion of the securement zone having longitudinally opposite ends defining an average length of said central portion as  
5 determined by a Securement Zone Measurement Method, said average length being in the range of about 5 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

21. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein said average length of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 10 percent to about 30 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

22. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 21 wherein said average length of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 10 percent to about 20 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

23. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein the absorbent article has a length, the central portion of the securement zone having longitudinal end boundaries, one of said longitudinal end boundaries being  
5 longitudinally spaced from the first end of the absorbent article a distance in the range of about 20 percent to about 45 percent of the length of the absorbent article, the opposite end boundary of the central portion of the securement zone being longitudinally spaced from the second  
10 end of the absorbent article a distance in the range of about 20 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

24. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein the absorbent structure is secured to said at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner with adhesive.

25. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 24 wherein the adhesive is a meltblown adhesive.

26. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein the securement zone comprises at least one outer portion extending longitudinally outward of the central portion.

27. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein the central portion of the securement has an average width as determined by a Securement Zone Measurement Method that is at least about 20 percent of a width of the absorbent  
5 structure at said central portion of the securement zone, any portion of the securement zone disposed longitudinally outward of said central portion having an average width as determined by said Securement Zone Measurement Method that is

less than about 20 percent of the width of the absorbent  
10 structure at said longitudinally outward portion.

28. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein the absorbent structure is secured to both the outer cover and the liner within the securement zone.

29. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner is stretchable.

30. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 29 wherein said at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner is elastic.

31. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 29 wherein the absorbent structure is substantially non-stretchable.

32. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein the securement zone extends continuously generally from within the first end region of said article through the center region to within the second end region of said  
5 article.

33. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein said article is configured for wear about the wearer's waist, said article having a front end region defining said first end region, a back end region defining  
5 said second end region, and a crotch region extending longitudinally between and interconnecting the front and back end regions to define said center region.

34. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 19 wherein the absorbent article has longitudinally opposite ends, the central portion of the securement zone being

disposed nearer to one end of the article than to said  
5 opposite end of said article.

35. An absorbent article for personal wear, the  
absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis,  
a first end region, a second end region and a center region  
extending longitudinally between and interconnecting the end  
5 regions, said absorbent article comprising:

an outer cover;

a bodyside liner adapted for contiguous relationship  
with the wearer's skin; and

an absorbent structure disposed between the bodyside  
10 liner and the outer cover and having longitudinally opposite  
ends and laterally opposite side edges, the absorbent  
structure extending generally from within the first end  
region of the article through the center region to within the  
second end region of said article and being secured to at  
15 least one of the liner and the outer cover within a  
securement zone, the securement zone comprising at least in  
part a central portion having an average width as determined  
by a Securement Zone Measurement Method that is at least  
about 20 percent of a width of the absorbent structure at  
20 said central portion, any portion of the securement zone  
disposed longitudinally outward of the central portion  
thereof having an average width as determined by said  
Securement Zone Measurement Method of less than about 20  
percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said  
25 longitudinally outward portion of the securement zone.

36. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35  
wherein the absorbent article has a length, the central  
portion of the securement zone having longitudinally opposite  
ends defining an average length of said central portion as  
5 determined by a Securement Zone Measurement Method, said



average length being in the range of about 5 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

37. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 36 wherein said average length of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 10 percent to about 30 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

38. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 37 wherein said average length of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 10 percent to about 20 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

39. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein the absorbent article has a length, the central portion of the securement zone having longitudinal end boundaries, one of said longitudinal end boundaries being  
5 longitudinally spaced from the first end of the absorbent article a distance in the range of about 20 percent to about 45 percent of the length of the absorbent article, the opposite end boundary of the central portion of the  
10 securement zone being longitudinally spaced from the second end of the absorbent article a distance in the range of about 20 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

40. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein the absorbent structure is secured to said at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner with adhesive.

41. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 40 wherein the adhesive is a meltblown adhesive.

42. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein the securement zone comprises at least one outer

portion extending longitudinally outward of the central portion.

43. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein said average width of the central portion of the securment zone in the range of about 20 percent to about 80 percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said  
5 central portion of the securement zone.

44. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 43 wherein said average width of the central portion of the securment zone in the range of about 20 percent to about 60 percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said  
5 central portion of the securement zone.

45. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein the absorbent structure is secured to both the outer cover and the liner within the securement zone.

46. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner is stretchable.

47. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 46 wherein said at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner is elastic.

48. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 46 wherein the absorbent structure is substantially non-stretchable.

49. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein the securement zone extends continuously generally from within the first end region of said article through the center region to within the second end region of said  
5 article.

50. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein said article is configured for wear about the wearer's waist, said article having a front end region defining said first end region, a back end region defining  
5 said second end region, and a crotch region extending longitudinally between and interconnecting the front and back end regions to define said center region.

51. An absorbent article as set forth in claim 35 wherein the absorbent article has longitudinally opposite ends, the central portion of the securement zone being disposed nearer to one end of the article than to said  
5 opposite end of said article.

52. An absorbent article for personal wear, the absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, a first end region, a second end region and a center region extending longitudinally between and interconnecting the end  
5 regions, said absorbent article comprising:

an outer cover;

a bodyside liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the wearer's skin; and

an absorbent structure disposed between the bodyside  
10 liner and the outer cover and having longitudinally opposite ends and laterally opposite side edges, the absorbent structure extending generally from within the first end region of the article through the center region to the second end region of said article and being secured to at least one  
15 of the liner and the outer cover within a securement zone, at least a portion of the securement zone having laterally opposite side boundaries and longitudinally opposite end boundaries, the side boundaries of said at least a portion of the securement zone being within at least about one inch of  
20 the respective side edges of the absorbent structure, one end

boundary of said at least a portion of the the securement  
zone being longitudinally spaced from the first end of the  
absorbent article a distance in the range of about 20 percent  
to about 45 percent of a length of the absorbent article, the  
25 opposite end boundary of said at least a portion of the  
absorbent article being longitudinally spaced from the second  
end of the absorbent article a distance in the range of about  
20 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent  
article.